Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for hand-held measurement of distances (d) to a surface region of an object (1, 18, 22), comprising:

a housing (2),

a lens system (3) let into the housing (2) and intended for modulated transmitted beams (4) and for those beams (5) of the transmitted beams (4) which are reflected by the surface region, for electro-optical distance measurement, ~~and~~

a first component (6, 7, 8, 8', 8", 9) which is connected to the housing (2) and can be extended beyond the housing (2) in the direction of propagation of the transmitted beams (4) for determining short distances (d), wherein the first component (6, 7, 8, 8', 8", 9) is formed both for measuring short distances~~, in particular between a zero point given by a measuring stop (20) of the housing (2) and the surface region,~~ and as a spacer for electro-optical distance measurement, and

means for automatic determination of a distance (d) from the surface region to a point located on an end of the first component, wherein the automatic determination is based on an electro-optical distance measurement and ~~dependent on~~ the extension of the first component (6, 7, 8, 8', 8", 9)~~, both for distance measurement and for fixing the zero point for electro-optical measurement, are provided~~.

2. (Original) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the means for automatic determination comprise optical or magnetic or acoustic or touch-sensitive or pressure-sensitive sensors.

3. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the device has at least one further component (8'''), optionally arranged orthogonally to the first component (8'') for measuring short distances.

4. (Original) The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein an apparatus, such as an optical, magnetic, acoustic or touch-sensitive or pressure-sensitive sensor, for automatic determination of the short distance is coordinated with the further component (8''').

5. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first component (9) extends a predetermined fixed length (i) beyond the housing (2) for electro-optical measurement of short distances (d), and in the predetermined extended state of the first component (9), the zero point of the measured, short distance (d) is embodied by that end of the first component (9) which faces away from the housing (2).

6. (Original) The device as claimed in claim 5, wherein an apparatus for registering the predetermined extended state of the first component (9) is provided.

7. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the first component (9) can be swiveled out or extended to the predetermined extended state, optionally with locking.

8. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein a scale or a code is coordinated with the first and/or further component (6, 7, 8, 8', 8'', 8''', 9).

9. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the first and/or further component is in the form of one of the following alternatives: elastically deformable, in the form of a strip, as an elongated, substantially rigid body, arranged in a length measuring module detachably fastened to the housing (2), in particular via a receptacle.

10. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the guide of the first and/or further component (6, 7, 8, 8', 8", 8"', 9) is formed in such a way that it is held in the extended position with frictional adhesion.

11. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the remote end of the first and/or further component (7, 8) is in the form of measuring hook (16), which is optionally displaceable by the material thickness of the measuring hook (16).

12. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein a third scale (13) is arranged on the first component (6, 7, 9), the zero point of which third scale is embodied by that side of the component (6, 7, 9) which faces away from the housing.

13. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one second scale (12) for measuring distances is arranged on the housing (2), the zero point of which second scale is embodied by the measuring stop (20).

14. (New) A method for measuring distances, comprising:

obtaining a device for measurement of the distance (d) to a surface region of an object from a zero point, wherein the device comprises:

a housing that houses an electro-optical distance measurement unit comprising a transmitter for transmitting a beam and a receiver for receiving a reflected beam, and

a movable member connected to the housing, said member being configured to such that it can move between at least a first position and a second position, wherein when the member is positioned in the second position an distal end of the member extends beyond the housing in the direction of propagation of the transmitted beam; and

using the device to obtain a first measurement of a distance (d) from a first zero point to a surface of an object, wherein the step of using the device to obtain the first measurement

comprises using the member as a distance measuring means or not using the member at all; and

using the device to obtain a second measurement of a distance (d) from a second zero point to a surface of an object, wherein the step of using the device to obtain the second measurement comprises using the member as a spacer and using the electro-optical distance measurement unit to obtain an electro-optical distance measurement.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the second zero point is a point on the distal end of the member.

16. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the first zero point is a point on the housing.

17. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the member is an elongated, substantially rigid body.

18. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the member is an elongated, substantially flexible body.